



Higher Education Equipment Advisory Committee Concept Summary

Note: This is not a legislative proposal, but is a concept for discussion

- Focus is on highly specialized research & development equipment, not on all equipment generally.
- Usage of such equipment could be made available to the private sector for a fee.
- Fees charged to private sector could have a nexus with future R&D funding at the individual institution, and for the Commonwealth in general. This same idea could apply to any efficiencies and savings generated by increased inter-agency sharing of major equipment.
- Any legislation drafted to codify this idea could include such protections as:
 - No institution would be mandated to lease out equipment. Each request could be evaluated by the institution on a case-by-case basis to approve the requested use;
 - Priority for use of equipment would remain with the institution and its faculty, staff, and students;
 - Liability concerns for the institutions and the Commonwealth would be explored and addressed.